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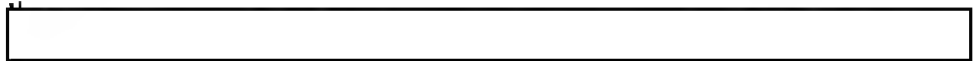
21 October 1963

South Vietnam

SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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GROUP 1
Excluded from
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21 October 1963

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM
(Information as of 1030 EDT)

1. Regime and opposition alike are preparing for the imminent arrival of the UN observer mission in South Vietnam. Press reports indicate that the Saigon regime

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maneuver the observers into private villas away from the major urban centers, where they will be less accessible to unofficial visitors.

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2. The US Embassy had already reported that the Diem government had drawn up an elaborate plan and detailed itinerary designed to keep the observers completely occupied and isolated from opposition viewpoints.

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Nhu said in his Thursday press conference that in the delegation talked with the Buddhists in asylum in the US Embassy, "We want the American Government to take the full responsibility."

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4. The opposition has made some tentative attempts to have its case presented to the visiting mission through US diplomatic and consular facilities, apparently convinced that the regime will afford few opportunities for opposition spokesmen to reach the UN observers. failing US sponsorship, the Buddhist opposition will feel its last chance to impress the observers lies in demonstrations and further immolations.

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